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Approved For Release 2005/07/28 : CIA-RDP91T01172R000200290016-3

16 March 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Changes in the Soviet Government

The 1300 odd delegates of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, with their customary unanimity, moved rapidly through a five point agenda in a ninety minute session on 15 March. They put their expected rubber stamp of approval on G. M. Malenkov as Chairman of the Council of Ministers and K. E. Voroshilov as Chairman of their own Presidium. They also ratified other governmental changes announced last week which appeared to be emergency moves aimed at tightening and streamlining the administrative organization in a period of crisis. These earlier changes brought foreign affairs, defense, security and key fabricating industries under centralized control.

Of primary significance in the Supreme Soviet meeting, however, was the ratification of additional sweeping mergers of economic ministries and the War and Navy Ministries as well. By reducing 54 ministries to 26 these changes place a much simplified government structure in the hands of a small number of experienced men. It is doubtful that the additional measures have been taken solely as a result of Stalin's death. Uncertainty in the international situation and difficulty in fulfillment of the Five Year Plan may have already created a situation where tighter control of the economy was deemed desirable. Malenkov's statement that the changes had been under consideration before Stalin's death appear to bear this out as well as to give the old master's stamp of approval.

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Assistant Director,
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Appendix I

Significant points brought out at the meeting of the Supreme Soviet

- A. Malenkov's speech, although primarily a reiteration of what he said at Stalin's funeral, contained a specific reference to the possibility of peaceful relations with the United States.
- B. The Party Presidium order of precedence remained the same i. e. Malenkov, Beria, Molotov, Voroshilov, Khrushchev, etc.
- C. Beria gave further evidence of his number two position by making the speech nominating Malenkov.
- D. Of the old Deputy Chairmen only the four First Deputy Chairmen (Beria, Molotov, Bulganin, Kaganovich) and Mikoyan retained their status. Dropped to ministerial status are former Deputy Chairmen Kosygin, Malyshev, Pervukhin, Saburov and Tevosyan. Voroshilov is automatically excluded as a result of his new job as Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet. Andriev becomes a member of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet and hence is also excluded from any ministerial responsibility. The exclusion of these men also raises some question as to the composition of the new Party Secretariat.
- E. No important heads have yet completely rolled i.e. most of the key Soviet leaders still find themselves in positions of power.
- F. The Supreme Soviet failed to consider the 1953 budget, one of its normal tasks. This suggests that changes in Soviet economic policy may be under consideration.
- G. Kaganovich, with still no direct ministerial responsibility, will probably oversee the whole economy.
- H. A. I. Koslov emerged as a prominent government personality. Formerly Secretary of the Chita Oblast Party Committee and newly elected alternate to the Central Committee last October, he takes over the important new Ministry of Agriculture and Deliveries, moving ahead of two full members of the Central Committee, Benediktov of the former Ministry of Agriculture and Yusupov of the former Ministry of Cotton Growing.
- I. The State Committee for Material and Technical Supplies (Gossmab) and the State Committee for Food and Industrial Products (Gosprodsanab) were merged with the State Planning Committee (Gosplan). This increases considerably the power of Gosplan by giving it supervision over allocation of materials, food and industrial products.

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Appendix I (Continued)

- J. By his appointment as Minister of Culture, P. K. Ponomarenko, alternate to the new Party Presidium, apparently will act as a trouble-shooter in taking over this curious combination of functions. His new post gives him responsibility for education, the propaganda media and labor reserves.

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Appendix II

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<u>Former Ministries or Committees</u>	<u>New Ministries or Committees</u>	<u>New Minister or Chairman</u>	<u>Former Position</u>
- War and Navy	Defense	N. A. Bulganin	Minister of War
- Agriculture, Cotton Growing, State Farms, State Deliveries, Forestry	Agriculture and Deliveries	A. I. Koslov	No known ministerial experience
- Higher Education, Cinematography, Labor Reserves, Arts Committee, Broadcasting Committee, Chief Polygraphic Publishing House	Culture	P. K. Ponomarenko	Minister of Agricultural Procurement
- Light Industry, Food Industry, Meat and Dairy Industry, Fishing Industry	Light and Food Industries	A. N. Kosygin	Minister of Light Industry
- Ferrous Metallurgy and Non-ferrous Metallurgy	Metallurgical Industry	I. P. Tevosyan	Minister of Ferrous Metallurgy
- Armaments and Aviation	Defense Industry	D. F. Ustinov	Minister of Armaments
- Timber Industry and Paper and Wood Processing Industry	Timber and Paper Industry	G. M. Orlov	Minister of the Timber Industry
- Construction of Heavy Industrial Enterprises and Construction of Machine Building Enterprises	Construction	N. A. Bygal	Minister of Construction of Machine Building Enterprises
- Merchant Marine, River Fleet, and the Chief Directorate of the Northern Sea Route	Sea and River Fleet	Z. A. Shashkov	Minister of the River Fleet

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<u>Former Ministries or Committees</u>	<u>New Ministries or Committees</u>	<u>New Minister or Chairman</u>	<u>Former Position</u>
- State Committee for Material and Technical Supply of the National Economy (Gossnab) and the State Committee for the Supply of Foodstuffs and Industrial Goods (Gosprodanab)	(merged with) State Planning Commission (Gosplan)	G. P. Kosyachenko	Chairman of Gosplan (named last week)

* The Ministries of Geology and Auto Transport were abolished

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